

**Claims**

1. A method of guiding sheets to a sheet processing machine, the adhesion force between two sheets following one another in an overlapping stream being reduced by the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet being lifted.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the lifted sheet trailing edge is blown under from the rear.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the first sheet is first aligned in the sheet transport direction before the sheet trailing edge is lifted.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the sheet is aligned laterally at the same time as the sheet trailing edge is lifted or after the sheet trailing edge has been lifted.
5. An apparatus for implementing the method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an apparatus for lifting a sheet trailing edge is arranged above the overlapping stream.
6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the lifting apparatus (32) is arranged at the distance (1) of the sheet length to be processed from the front edge alignment means (27).
7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the lifting apparatus (32) can be adjusted in the sheet transport direction to the sheet format (1) to be processed.

- 10 -

A-03930

8. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that the lifting apparatus (32) comprises at least one nozzle (33).
9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the nozzle (33) is aligned tangentially with respect to the surface of the overlapping stream.
10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the nozzle (33) is aimed in the sheet transport direction.
11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the nozzle (33) is formed as a blowing/suction nozzle and can be acted on with blown air.
12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the nozzle (33) is formed as a suction gripper and can be acted on with a vacuum.
13. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 5 to 10, characterized in that, in addition to the nozzle (33), a free jet nozzle (34) is provided, which is aimed at the overlapping sheet stream obliquely from above in the sheet transport direction.
14. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 5 to 13, characterized in that the blowing/suction nozzle (33) or suction nozzle and/or the free jet nozzle (34) can be activated at the cycle rate of the sheet processing machine (1).
15. A printing press having a sheet stack feeder (2) and a lifting apparatus (18) for forming an overlapping stream, characterized in that an

- 11 -

A-03 930

additional lifting apparatus (32) is arranged  
above the overlapping stream.